

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 224934

EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO, ASEC

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

REFS: A. USNATO 5047 DTG 171335Z SEP 75; B. USNATO 5067

DTG 172144Z SEP 75

NATO HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. WE BELIEVE QUESTION OF SECURITY INSPECTION OF PORTUGAL BY NATO SECURITY DIRECTOR (ABIDIAN) SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW BEFORE DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT INSPECTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO PROMPT, FORMAL IDENTIFICATION OF ACROSS THE BOARD INADEQUACIES IN PORTUGUESE COMPLIANCE WITH NATO SECURITY REGULATIONS, AND THAT LUNS APPRECIATES THIS WILL BE THE RESULT. THUS, INSPECTION COULD CALL INTO QUESTION THE CONTINUING PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGAL IN NATO ACTIVITIES,

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EVEN ON THE LIMITED BASIS THAT WILL EMERGE FROM THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF LUNS' RECENT DECISIONS (REF A), WITH
POTENTIAL POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS AFFECTING INTERNAL
PORTUGUESE POLITICS AND PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH NATO.
MOREOVER, INSPECTION ITSELF COULD SERVE TO BRING GOP FACE
TO FACE IN FORMAL WAY WITH FACT THAT NATO HAS UNDERTAKEN
SERIOUS RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON PORTUGUESE ACCESS, A

DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD RUN COUNTER TO ALLIED INTEREST IN
APPLYING MEASURES CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN LOW-KEY NON-
ADVERSARY FASHION SO AS TO MINIMIZE POLITICAL FALL-OUT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USNATO COMMENTS ON ABOVE CON-
SIDERATIONS AND ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY LISBON MAY WISH TO
MAKE. MEANWHILE, MISSION SHOULD INDICATE TO SYG LUNS'
OFFICE THAT WE BELIEVE DECISION ON CONDUCT AND TIMING
OF SECURITY INSPECTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT REVIEW
AND CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES.

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